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Thursday, November 29, 2012



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County wants new social housing deal

Changes to funding formula urged. County/city liaison committee met Wednesday for the first since May 2010

MARK
SPOWART
london@metronews.ca

The Middlesex County has a message for the City of London: Pay more for social housing, or it could end up costing you even more.

"After today, (county) council will be in a position to proceed to arbitration," Bill Rayburn, the Middlesex County chief administrative officer, said at Wednesday's county/city liaison committee meeting in London.

"There is some real risk for the city, should the arbitrator decide to include retro costs as part of the agreement."

The issue is the funding formula for social housing: The county pays for 15 per cent of services, the city 85 per cent. But county officials say they have just 8.73 per cent of the social-housing units in their region. They want the city to pay for all the units within London.

So, based on 2011 financial data, Rayburn said, the county overpaid \$1,586,194.

City officials agree a deal must be reached soon.



Bill Rayburn of Middlesex County, centre, presents his case to the county/city liaison committee at city hall on Wednesday.

MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

"This can't go on forever," Mayor Joe Fontana said. "Let's not lose sight of the fact that negotiations are far better than arbitration, where you never know what you are going to get."

In similar recent settlements, arbitrators have awarded retroactive costs dating to the expiry of the original agreement.

Rayburn said other cost risks for the city would be if an arbitrator were to implement a funding formula based on the location of social-housing units, which would raise costs by about eight per cent. Or there could be a "no phase-in" period where the city would have to start paying for the

City-county co-operation

- There are more than 30 agreements between the City of London and the County of Middlesex addressing a number of shared services, including city-county road funding, land-ambulance use and service delivery for Ontario Works and childcare.

additional costs immediately. In the past, the county has proposed a five-year and 10-year implementation of any new funding agreement.

City and county officials adjourned the meeting with an agreement that they would continue to work toward a deal, although no deadline was set.

"Big picture: We are in this together," Fontana said. "I think we can come to a fair agreement."

During the meeting, the committee passed a motion to meet at least twice a year, in the summer and in the winter. The dates and locations have yet to be decided.

Online

Read more local, national and international news at metronews.ca



A RIGHT ROYAL WAVE

Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, greets a cheering throng of onlookers on Wednesday as she leaves Manor School in Cambridge, U.K. Sporting a new, layered hairstyle that was the talk of the British tabloids, the Duchess made her first official visit to Cambridge with Prince William, Duke of Cambridge. The dukedom was conferred on them by the Queen on their wedding day in April last year. CHRIS JACKSON/WPA POOL/GETTY IMAGES

It may be one of the most valuable documents you'll ever sign.

NAME	AMOUNT	SIGNATURE	AMOUNT	DATE
1. Bob Lachyuk	25	[Signature]	25	✓
2. Susan Bess	25	[Signature]	25	✓
3. Linda M. Gorman	25	[Signature]	25	✓
4. Sean Leves	25	[Signature]	25	✓
5. Sheila Diney	25	[Signature]	25	✓
6. John Boyd	25	[Signature]	25	✓
7. Chris Lept	25	[Signature]	25	✓
8. Kelli Lee	25	[Signature]	25	✓
9. Gary Smith	25	[Signature]	25	✓
10. Matt Johnson	25	[Signature]	25	✓
11. Bruce Brown	25	[Signature]	25	✓
12. Emily Smith	25	[Signature]	25	✓
13. Ernest Ring	25	[Signature]	25	✓
14. Joe Brown	25	[Signature]	25	✓
15. Tony Smith	25	[Signature]	25	✓

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Factory sector leads fall in Ontario's employment

Statistics Canada.

Though the province still has largest share of non-farm payroll workers nationally, its portion has dropped

Ontario's status as the economic engine of the country has

been in a steady decline for the better part of a decade — and most of the blame can be laid at the feet of the manufacturing sector, new data suggests.

While the province's opposition parties pointed to the Statistics Canada data as proof of poor economic stewardship under the governing Liberals, the economic development minister shot back with figures he says show manufacturing is

on the rebound in the province.

Statistics Canada's latest payroll employment report, released Wednesday, shows Ontario lost about two-thirds of the 52,500 jobs shed nationally by employers in September.

But it is the agency's 10-year perspective on the country's most populous province that is most revealing of Ontario's lagging performance.

It shows Ontario's share of

Canada's employees has been slipping the past decade to 38 per cent today, from 39.2 per cent in 2003. As of September, there were 5.8 million payroll workers in Ontario.

Statistics Canada puts the manufacturing job losses in Ontario at 255,000 over the past decade, dropping the number of factory employees to 654,200 in September 2012.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Above average

In terms of average weekly wages, Ontario is just above the national average of \$902.29, but bested by Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland, the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.



Let there be light! Official illumination of Victoria Park a day away

A city worker plugs in a light display Wednesday in Victoria Park. This year, more than 75,000 lights will be lit in the park. The official lighting will happen Friday, with carolling at 6:15 p.m., followed by the countdown to the illumination of the park at 6:50 p.m. The lights will be on daily until Jan. 1 from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

1 NEWS

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Sarah Baldwin, 30, of London, says online dating can provide lots of laughs and frustrations. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

Lying never a good idea in online dating world: Experts

Looking for love. Internet dating is full of pitfalls — and fakers are some of the biggest to watch for



JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

Sarah Baldwin says she isn't difficult to get along with on a date; she gives guys a fair chance.

At the same time, there are certain things capable of turning her off in a heartbeat. Showering her with a dozen roses — and a spice rack — on the first date is one of them.

"He thought it was appropriate to bring me an entire SPICE RACK," Baldwin

win, a London native, said in an email to Metro. "A GIANT wooden spice rack as a present! Dinner was awkward and I wanted to get out of there ASAP."

Ask around, and you'll quickly realize the online dating realm is inhabited by an abundance of wacky tales, many of which include people pretending to be something they're not.

Or, in the spice rack instance, simply being too forward.

London police said Wednesday that they charged a St. Thomas man for posing as a police officer while courting a woman through a dating website. By attaching his name to a picture of an officer, police said he was attempting to "gain advantage for a sexual purpose."

According to a pair of ex-

perts, if your intentions are indeed to find friendship, romance or love via online dating, impersonation — in any form — is the complete opposite approach to take.

"I really believe that if you want to make an authentic connection, you have to be authentic online," said Christine Hart of YourDateCoach.com.

Added David Wygant, whose website calls him the "world's leading dating expert": "First of all, don't get caught up on what people write (online). Because you have to meet that person anyways. Chemistry is all face-to-face."

Between Hart and Wygant, Toronto- and L.A.-based, respectively, they have over three decades' worth of experience in helping singles find their way through the dating maze.

On top of being authentic, trusting your instincts is always imperative, Hart adds.

"When people run into trouble in online dating, it's because they're not following their instincts," she said.



Follow John Matisz on Twitter @Metro_JMatisz

Don't tell me sweet little lies

"Lie in your profile, put the wrong age, put up a different picture of yourself, tell people you're fit and trim. But then, when they see you in person, what are you going to do? ... That's the biggest mistake people make — they have a limited belief system."

David Wygant, internationally-renowned dating expert

Influenza A. Outbreak in Victoria Hospital unit

London Health Sciences Centre officials issued an alert level 2 outbreak Wednesday for influenza A in a wing of Victoria Hospital.

The designation is prompted by two or more cases of hospital-acquired influenza on a specific unit where patients have been in hospital care for more than 72 hours. In this case, officials said the affected unit cares for elderly patients.

As of Tuesday evening, the LHSC said in a news release there were two influenza-positive patients on the unit and three with respiratory symptoms. Officials said patients with influenza A have been placed in private rooms or are in a room with

Stay away whilst sick

"We ask that family or visitors do not come to the hospital if they themselves are feeling unwell."

Michael John, LHSC medical director, infection prevention and control

another patient who is positive.

Signs have been placed on the unit, and information has been provided for families and visitors. Environmental service workers are cleaning the rooms on the units twice daily.

No new patients are being admitted to the unit.
AM980/AM980.CA

Two passengers injured

DUI charge laid

A London woman has been charged after an SUV crashed into a parked car early Wednesday morning. Police said a grey Ford Escape SUV hit a parked car and rolled on its side.

METRO

London North Centre

Branscombe gets PC nomination

London North Centre PCs have chosen who they want to see on the ballot come the next provincial election: Current city councillor Nancy Branscombe.

AM980/AM980.CA

Ladies, he's not a cop: Man charged for impersonation

London police have charged a 45-year-old St. Thomas man with impersonating a police officer on a dating website.

A woman alerted police after interacting with the suspect, who posted a photo of an officer and claimed it was himself.

During conversations online and on the phone, the suspect provided personal information about the woman. She grew suspicious and contacted the police.

An investigation by London police's cyber crime unit determined the suspect was not a police officer.

He had allegedly gathered the woman's personal informa-

tion through Internet searches.

London police Const. Dennis Rivest said the incident is something that doesn't happen often.

However, he warns residents of the general dangers of owning an online profile with personal information readily available to anyone.

"People will set up their profiles, put a lot of information in it, and some of that information doesn't necessarily need to be out there," Rivest said.

"If you choose to put it there, you choose to put it there — that's your choice.

"All we're saying is be cautious." JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Multiple charges

- The suspect was arrested in his car, which was modified to resemble an unmarked police vehicle. Police also found he had left his two-year-old child unattended at his home for about 2.5 hours.

- Perry Lambert has been charged with three counts of impersonating a police officer, two counts of impersonating for advantage, and one count of leaving a child unattended.

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Elementary schools

Teachers' union warns of strikes

Ontario's biggest teachers' union is warning of major disruption in elementary schools across the province in December as teachers ramp up strike action to protest the governing Liberals' controversial anti-strike law.

Parents will get 72 hours

notices of strikes planned next month, which will affect operations in each public elementary school throughout the province, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario said Wednesday.

A union spokeswoman confirmed that strike action could include teachers not being in class.

Education Minister Laurel Broten and Premier Dalton McGuinty are defending the

unpopular legislation, which also freezes the wages of most teachers and cuts their benefits.



Laurel Broten

McGuinty insists the legislation is needed, even though it appears to be preventing some teachers from accepting new contracts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flush with cash

Grant lifts lid on toilet reinvention

A team of University of Toronto engineers — which also includes researchers from Western — has received a \$2.2-million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to continue designing a waterless toilet. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Back on assembly line

Early gift for one-time Ford workers

It's the letter former Ford workers in St. Thomas have been waiting for.

About 220 of Ford Talbotville's former employees have been recalled to work at the automaker's Oakville assembly plant.

AM980/AM980.CA

BigImpact

Text to support Big Brothers, Sisters

This December, the mentoring program Big Brothers and Big Sisters of London and area is introducing a text to support campaign. Supporters can text "BigImpact" to 45678 to donate \$10. For more information, visit bbsola.org. METRO

Day off — but not really — for red-hot London Knights

Canadian Hockey League. Team up to fourth in rankings by NHL scouts



JOHN MATISZ

john.matisz@metronews.ca

On one side: Hart Trophy winner Corey Perry, Nashville Predators forward Colin Wilson, 2005 Memorial Cup champion Bryan Rodney, and two pro players turned coaches in Dylan Hunter and Jeff Paul.

On the other side: The London Knights rookie class — Jacob Jammes, Remi Elie, Miles Liberati, Corey Pawley, and Kyle Platzner.

Together, they formed a formidable game of shinny at Budweiser Gardens on Wednesday afternoon.

Knights head coach Dale Hunter gave his players a day off from the serious stuff following a convincing 3-1 victory over the Kitchener Rangers the night prior. Obviously, that didn't stop most of the roster from hanging around the rink.

"We don't really know what to do with ourselves," said Knights Scott Harrington. "The other guys who aren't here are just playing Xbox all day. I'm not a gamer, so I came here to work out

Injury update

Knights assistant coach Dylan Hunter says Tommy Hughes and Matt Rupert are expected to play in Friday's home game versus the Barrie Colts. As of Wednesday afternoon, Hughes and Rupert were both considered day-to-day with a bruised sternum and mouth infection, respectively, but are on the right track to full recoveries.

and play ping pong."

You'd be hard pressed to find a hockey fan out there willing to argue with Hunter's rationale to cancel practice. London is the toast of the Ontario Hockey League right now with 42 points, rocking a 12-game win streak amidst the busiest time of their 2012-13 schedule.

The victory in Kitchener — driven by impressive performances by centre Chris Tierney (two goals, one assist), rearguard Nikita Zadorov (one goal, one assist), and netminder Kevin Bailie (39 saves on 40 shots) — was the first contest in a six-games-in-10 days stretch that will inevitably test the club's valour.

"We don't talk about our win streak at all in the room," said Harrington, 19. "We're doing a good job of going game-



London Knights defenceman Miles Liberati, right, challenges locked-out Nashville Predators forward Colin Wilson during a game of shinny Wednesday. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

by-game this year. It's good for the young guys; it's good to get their confidence up."

The Pittsburgh Penguins draftee says Zadorov's ability to rise to the occasion against the

Rangers is a shining example of a younger Knight gaining self-assurance and then acting upon it.

"(I've been given) a lot of time on the ice lately," said

Zadorov, a towering Russian rookie who carried the puck with Paul Coffey-like swagger Tuesday. "The coach says, 'You're playing better.'"

Given the Moscow native's

smooth transition to the OHL, many would be shocked if Russia's world junior team didn't fly him back home to participate in the late December tournament.

Fanshawe students to film in polar bear capital



Spencer Johnston, a student at Fanshawe, is part of a film crew heading to Churchill, Man., to document the impact shrinking ice is having on polar bears.

MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

Five Fanshawe film students are preparing to travel north to document climate change, ice caps, and polar bears.

The film's name, 1.66, comes from the rise in temperature in the Arctic. Over the last 20 years, the temperature in the Arctic has risen 1.66 C. The film hopes to capture this environmental impact.

"The film is about climate change, and we are hoping to bring a global issue into local light," said Spencer Johnston, the film's director of photography.

To film the effects of climate change, Johnston and the crew — all in Fanshawe's advanced filmmaking program — are traveling to Churchill, Man., to study polar bears. Churchill, located on the coast of Hudson Bay, has a population of about 800 people and is one of the most northern towns in Manitoba.

"Churchill is the polar bear capital of the world," said Johnston, 25. "Bears are forced into the city because their habitats are being destroyed. With the ice caps

melting, the bears are finding less space to live."

Every year between October and November, the bears move from their summer habitat on the tundra back to the ice that forms over Hudson Bay to hunt seals. The bears gather along the shore just outside Churchill waiting for the ice to freeze. With temperatures now typically higher, the ice forms later in the season and the bears move inland into Churchill in search of food. Johnston and the rest of the crew are hoping to film

the bears in the city.

"Often the bears are shot and killed to keep people safe," said Johnston. "What we are hoping to film is a group of bears that were captured in the city. They have been released, and we want to follow where they might go."

For Johnston, the film offers a once in a lifetime adventure.

"We are very excited to go," said Johnston. "I've never been so far north. It is an unbelievable opportunity."

ANDREW SERCOMBE/FOR METRO

Climate change doc

- The students leave London on Dec. 13 and will spend a week filming in Churchill. The documentary, funded by the students themselves, will be released in the summer.
- Those wishing to donate to the production of the film can visit indiegogo.com/thebearjail

Tory pollster puts Harper on the spot

Liberals want PM to apologize.

Firm censured for conducting a misinformation campaign against MP

Liberals are demanding an apology from Prime Minister Stephen Harper over the conduct of a Tory pollster.

Campaign Research was censured for conducting a misinformation campaign against MP Irwin Cotler.

An investigation by the market research industry's watchdog concluded Wednesday that the actions of Campaign Research Inc. brought the industry into disrepute.

"The actions of Campaign Research have likely caused the Canadian public to lose confidence in marketing research and have tarnished the image of the marketing research profession," says a ruling by three-member panel of the Market Research and Intelligence Association.

The panel was struck after the association received seven complaints of professional misconduct against Campaign Research.

The complaints related to a voter identification poll the company conducted last autumn on behalf of the federal Conservative party in Cotler's Montreal riding.

The company's callers suggested to constituents — falsely — that Cotler either

A rebuke

The Market Research and Intelligence Association is a voluntary body with limited powers.

- **The options.** It can suspend or expel members who violate its code of conduct.
- **The result.** It settled on censuring Campaign Research, which amounts to a public rebuke.

had or was about to quit as the Liberal MP for Mount Royal.

Cotler said the Conservatives must now take responsibility for the conduct of their pollster.

"I think they should be severing their ties with the firm that undertook these acts on their behalf," he said.

"And they themselves should not only apologize, but undertake that they will not engage in such false and misleading voter suppression again."

When Cotler first complained a year ago about the polling being done in his riding, government House leader Peter Van Loan defended it as a routine matter.

On Wednesday, interim Liberal leader Bob Rae said: "This didn't happen by accident. It happened because the Conservative party asked this organization to conduct such a poll."

"Campaign Research accepts the conclusions and decision of the MRIA," said the company's general counsel, Aaron Wudrick.

"We remain proud gold seal members of the association and endeavour to continue our affiliation with the MRIA by striving to uphold the highest ethical and professional standards."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Hi, partner!

They're partners in trade. Two North American leaders meet in Ottawa to cement ties and talk economics. Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexico's president-elect Enrique Peña Nieto hold a news conference on Parliament Hill on Wednesday. Peña Nieto was making a whirlwind visit just three days before being sworn in. He also travelled to Washington, D.C., to meet with U.S. President Barack Obama. Peña Nieto wants to encourage Canadian investment in his country's state-run oil company. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Medical woes. Women in agony ask Saskatchewan to pay for mesh removal



Marika English is going to California next week to get surgical mesh fully removed. It will set her back \$30,000 unless the government agrees to pay. ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO IN SASKATOON

One woman has not been able to sit down for seven months.

Another says she feels like she has steel wool inside her. A third fears she might not have more children.

Ruth Olson, Marika English and Stephanie Brad all say they're in agony because of complications from a surgical mesh.

And they're begging the province of Saskatchewan to pay for the mesh's complete removal.

"We are angry, we are sick and we are in pain," English said Wednesday at the Saskatchewan legislature.

The women had surgical mesh inserted through their vaginas to help with urinary

incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse.

But the women say their meshes have failed and are poking into other organs.

They said the Saskatchewan health ministry has turned down their requests for funding out-of-country medical coverage.

The women said complete mesh removal is not available in Canada — that only partial removal is offered by a doctor in British Columbia.

They said their specialists have referred them to a doctor at the University of California in Los Angeles who is trained to completely remove the mesh.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberal race. Garneau the spaceman wants to send Harper into orbit

He may never be known as Flash Garneau, but the latest contender for the helm of the federal Liberals hopes his astronaut credentials will give him a lift.

Marc Garneau repeatedly played up his resumé as Canada's first man in space as he officially launched his leadership campaign Wednesday.

The Montreal MP touted himself as the Liberals' best hope for defeating Prime Minister Stephen Harper, having gained the necessary experience and leadership skills during an impressive career before jumping into the political arena in 2008.

"I want to be the prime minister of Canada, I want to be the Liberal leader," Garneau told a news conference in Ottawa.

"I will talk about my strengths and my strengths are proven ...

"There will be no modesty here. I'm going to speak specifically about what I've done

Quoted

"He's a man of ideas and strength."

Justin Trudeau, presumed Liberal frontrunner.



Marc Garneau is well-regarded on Parliament Hill as a hard-working MP. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

in the navy, what I've done in the space program, including being the president of the Canadian Space Agency."

Garneau insisted he's not daunted by the prospect of going up against fellow Montreal MP Justin Trudeau, son of former prime minister Pierre Trudeau and the presumed favourite.

"When I sent in my application (to become an astronaut), I was one of 4,000 people and I ended up No. 1," Garneau said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"The effort to dislodge Mr. Cotler was, to use a technical term, disgusting. It was beyond any standard we've ever known."

Bob Rae, interim Liberal leader

Palestinian statehood

PM confirms it: Canada will say no in UN vote

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has confirmed that Canada will vote against a motion to confer statehood on Palestine in a vote set for Thursday at the United Nations.

Harper says Canada favours a two-state solution in the Middle East that

requires the Palestinian authority to return to the bargaining table for talks with Israel.

The prime minister says his government will not support any "shortcut," such as giving the Palestinians a declaration of statehood in advance of negotiations.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird is travelling to the UN in New York on Thursday to cast Canada's vote against the motion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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www.rkgmcc.com**synergize**Gulf oil spill. BP cut out of
new U.S. federal contracts

The Obama administration put a temporary stop to new federal contracts with British oil company BP on Wednesday, citing the company's "lack of business integrity" and criminal proceedings stemming from the Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010.

The action by the Environmental Protection Administration won't affect current contracts, but prevents BP and its affiliates from new government contracts "until the company can provide sufficient evidence to EPA demonstrating that it meets federal business standards," the agency said.

"EPA is taking this action due to BP's lack of business integrity as demonstrated by the

company's conduct with regard to the Deepwater Horizon blowout, explosion, oil spill, and response," the agency said in a statement.

In London, BP said it had no immediate comment but expected to make a statement later Wednesday.

EPA suspensions are standard practice when a criminal case raises responsibility questions about a company. The suspension came the same day two BP rig supervisors and a former executive were scheduled to be arraigned on criminal charges stemming from the deadly explosion and the company's response to the resulting oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Pools of dispersed oil collect on a section of the public beach in Grand Isle, La., a few months after the 2010 BP oil spill. Citing "a lack of business integrity" at BP, the Obama administration put a temporary stop to new federal contracts with the British oil company on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Anti-corruption
squad nabs former
SNC-Lavalin CEO

Fraud charges. Arrest relates to Montreal superhospital contract



Former SNC-Lavalin CEO Pierre Duhaime THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The former head of Canada's biggest engineering firm, who once mused that Quebec was taking sufficient measures to fight corruption in the construction industry, was arrested Wednesday by the squad at the centre of those efforts.

Pierre Duhaime, the former chief executive of SNC-Lavalin, was taken from his home by police in connection with alleged fraud involving one of Montreal's huge new superhospitals.

The arrest warrant alleges that Duhaime and Riasdh Ben Aissa, another former top executive, also committed conspiracy to commit fraud and uttered false documents in connection with a contract pertaining to the multibillion-dollar McGill University Health

Centre. The infractions are alleged to have taken place between April 30, 2009, and Aug. 31, 2011.

Duhaime was expected to be released on a promise to appear in court at a later date after being questioned by provincial anti-corruption squad investigators. Squad chief Robert Lafreniere said "international proceedings" have been initiated against Ben Aissa, who is currently detained in Switzerland. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec construction inquiry

- A senator appointed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper says he could not possibly have known that some of his business contacts would someday be accused of having criminal Mafia links. Senator Leo Housakos reacted Wednesday to details emerging from Quebec's construction inquiry, expressing frustration over what he called a smear-by-association campaign and a "witch-hunt."

- Housakos was named at the inquiry for attending meetings that are being scrutinized at the high-profile probe. The inquiry heard he met with two men who now face numerous criminal charges in an unrelated affair.

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STRIKE THE SHOPPERS AND JOIN THE CHORUS



HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Oh, joy! It's once again that magical time of year when we get into the "spirit" of Christmas — so called because Christmas, as it was once understood, is dead by the end of November, either killed

by the Gods of Consumerism or trampled to death at a shopping mall by people clambering for this year's must have present: Restraining Order Elmo. Fa la la la la la la.

It all began last week, with people in their stretchiest shopping pants crawling all over each other during Grey Thursday, Black

Friday, Small Business Saturday, Paisley Sunday, Cyber Monday, The Tantalizing Tremendous and Transcendent Tues-tacular, and Wednesday.

Wednesday!

The Black Friday weekend has become the unofficial "starting gun" of the Christmas shopping season, though that bang you heard was probably just a Walmart greeter firing a warning shot into the air. Giving like Santa and saving like Scrooge might be the goal, but a lot of people just trample like nine angry reindeer.

When I was doing research for this column, I tried to type Christmas shopping statistics into Google but it auto-filled to Christmas shopping safety tips.

Deck your fellow patrons

The more violent aspects seem solely American so far, but we might not be far behind. There were zombies lined up outside Canadian malls at 6 a.m. on Black Friday, because we saw the old ladies hurting each other on the TV and naturally thought, "We want some of that."

This made perfect sense.

Watching the Black Friday swarm move through a mall like locusts — leaving behind employees wearing nothing but their smiley-face pins — is fascinating, but frightening.

It occurs to me how fitting it is that the 1978 horror allegory Dawn of the Dead was a film about a shopping mall full of flesh-eating zombies that shuffled slowly in a slack-jawed, aimless stupor, while the more recent remake had fast zombies bounding through the mall in a quick, deadly crush. While the first film was clearly meant to mock the day's spirit of consumerism, I think the echo of fast, awful crowds in the second film was just good luck. Living death imitates art.

And all the more fitting since Christmas advertising now starts on Halloween.

The festivities used to kick into gear after Remembrance Day, but I suspect in the future we'll just tell kids the story of how The Veterans Saved Christmas while we enjoy our seasonal Peppermint poppy mochas.

The worst part of all for me is that, despite my non-believer status, I really like Christmas. I like the lights and the outdoor markets and most of the music, and so it kills me a little to see people getting all mobby over stuff they'll forget about by Jan. 3.

The more violent aspects seem solely American so far, but we might not be far behind. There were zombies lined up outside Canadian malls at 6 a.m. on Black Friday, because we saw the old ladies hurting each other on the TV and naturally thought, "We want some of that."

In the spirit of Christmas giving, might I suggest that we return the favour by giving Americans our Boxing Day sales? Given their track record, they'll enjoy another shopping day while making the name more apt than ever.



Customers wait in line to enter Best Buy on Black Friday in Fort Worth, Texas. According to recent data, Black Friday is expected to attract zombies to Canadian malls by 2014. TOM PENNINGTON/GETTY IMAGES

Still trying to impress Olive Oyl



STEPHAN SAVOIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ripped

Hey, Popeye, where's your pipe?

Don't tell Popeye. It turns out you don't need to eat your spinach to get the world's biggest arms. Bodybuilder Moustafa Ismail insists they are all-natural, the result of a punishing workout regimen he started after a guest at his uncle's wedding in his native Egypt mocked his overweight frame.

"They call me Popeye, the Egyptian Popeye," Ismail, 24, said while working out in the Boston suburb of Milford. But unlike the

cartoon character, "I like chicken, beef, anything but spinach."

It's not easy having the world's biggest arms.

Skeptics say there must also be steroids or some other artificial means behind Ismail's beyond-bulging biceps and triceps, and Guinness World Records is now waffling on whether to recognize him.

Controversy ensued when Guinness decided to recognize him as having the largest upper arm muscles. In response to critics, they are now conducting research with medical specialists and reviewing Ismail's category.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big guns

- Ismail started building his muscles in his Egyptian hometown of Alexandria before moving to the United States in 2007 and settling in Franklin, southwest of Boston.

- To pay for his gym membership and daily dietary requirements, he worked two jobs as a gas station attendant, but gave up one after his wife began to complain that he was pushing himself too hard.

No sweat

31 inches

Ismail eats three kilograms of protein and four kilograms of carbohydrates, and drinks 11 litres of water each day to help maintain upper arms that measure 31 inches around — as big as a small man's waist.

Generous amounts of poultry, seafood and shakes provide the protein he needs to fuel daily two-hour workouts in which he lifts as much as 600 pounds.

Online

Watch the video at metronews.ca



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What did you do on Black Friday?

50%
I DID
ANYTHING
OTHER THAN
SHOPPING

17%
I RESEARCHED
AHEAD OF CYBER
MONDAY

16%
I SHOPPED IN
CANADA

17%
I VENTURED
ACROSS THE
BORDER

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it's a balmy -30 with windchill in the middle of a snowstorm here in good 'ole GP.. I miss #ldnont

@valoasis:
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@OrchestraLondon:
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@Robynowits:
Time to do that working thing. WAY colder out than I thought!! Brrrr! #LDNONT

@eh_c:
Presto card allows riders in GTA to ride across multiple transit operators. Could lead to competition btwn public/private operators? #LdnOnt

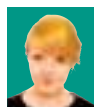
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Spx the mysterious voice behind acclaimed band

Cold Specks. Critics raving over indie world's latest darling



BACKSTAGE PASS
Amanda Grant
london@metronews.ca

At Spx is quietly modest, shy even ... until she takes the mic. The Canadian musician's voice is soulful, a husky alto commanding attention, reminiscent of Southern gospel traditions ripe with spirituality.

Spx is the woman behind Cold Specks, short-listed earlier this year for the Polaris music prize.

Spx seems guarded in interviews and has a reputation for telling half-truths and tall tales. Even her name is a pseudonym, created (supposedly) in honour of British punk band X-Ray Spex.

But that all changes when you listen to the Toronto native's debut album *I Predict a Graceful Expulsion*. The album is raw and honest, stripped down piano and guitar riffs accompanying Spx's distinctive voice.

The album has been years in the making for Spx, who started writing it when she was 15, holed up in a walk-in closet in her family's home in Etobicoke. Eventually she put together a demo, a copy of which landed in the hands of British-based producer Jim Anderson.

It was around this time, or so the story goes, that Spx dropped out of school (she had been studying at the University of Toronto) and flew to the U.K., convinced by Anderson to record a full-length album.



Cold Specks performs Sunday night at Aeolian Hall. HANDOUT/AUTUMN DE WILDE

It wasn't until Spx missed her flight home that she opened up to her parents, filling them in on her decision to pursue a career in music.

Spx's music has a genre all to itself; the singer coined the term "doom soul" to describe her sound, a label created partly in jest, but it has stuck, and for good reason. Her songs are deep and dark, telling stories of family,

identity and spirituality.

Sunday night Cold Specks will perform at Aeolian Hall — and if the reviews from her concert dates across North America are any indication — this is a show that's not to be missed.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$15 for students, available at Grooves Records and The Village Idiot or online at aeolianhall.ca. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.

Around town

- **Art.** Seussical the Musical opens Thursday at the Palace Theatre. The show, put on by the London Community Players runs until Dec. 9, with evening and matinee performances throughout the weekend. Tickets are \$15 available online at palacetheatre.ca.
- **Music.** Indie Underground is back Thursday night at Call the Office. DJ Aaron McMillan will be leading the dance party with music by Purity Ring, M83 and Handsome Furs. Doors open at 9 p.m. and the event is free.



News worth sharing.

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Ray Liotta treading softly in his latest mob movie

New movie. Best known for his bad guy roles, Liotta flips the script in *Killing Them Softly* as he becomes a good guy mobster

HEIDI PATALANO
Metro World News

Ray Liotta knows how to give a hell of a fake beating. He's also good at taking one, as he does in his latest film — mobster drama *Killing Them Softly*. Though fans are still asking him to say lines from his iconic role in 1994's *Goodfellas*, the New Jersey native doesn't mind slipping back into the role of a gangster for Andrew Dominik's new film, especially since, as he says, he's playing a good gangster this time around.

In this film, the mob underworld serves as a microcosm for the country as a whole. So many people felt victimized by the 2008 financial crisis, which is when this film is set. The mobsters who get ripped off in the card game robberies represent the general public. What do you

Quoted

"Everybody got hit. I'm not sure, but I guess it happens to all walks of life. You don't think of it as maybe hurting people who do illegal things, but it stands to reason (the effect of the crisis), I guess, would be across the board."

Ray Liotta
Talking about the 2008 financial crisis.



Ray Liotta stars in the latest mobster drama *Killing Them Softly*. HANDOUT

think is the allegorical message of all of that?

Just that everybody needs money. Everybody got hit. I'm not sure, but I guess it happens to all walks of life. You don't think of it as maybe hurting people who do illegal things, but it stands to reason (the effect of the crisis), I guess, would be across the board — good guys and bad guys.

It's refreshing how the film places the mob in the con-

text of the crisis. Is that one of the things that attracted you to this role?

That was in the book ... But that's not why I did it. I did it more just because it was a really interesting story and it was nice to play somebody who was the victim as opposed to the aggressor. It was different in terms of the bad guys that I've played.

What was the strangest mob story you've been asked to do?

I get to play cops — bad cops, some bad guys. I've only played two guys who were in the mob, *Goodfellas* and then I've got one coming out, *Ice Man*, which is a really good movie. I was asked to do *The Sopranos*, but it just wasn't the right time to do it. In the beginning of my career, I handled it very delicately in terms of limiting the bad guys. The irony of it all is I've never been in a fight in my whole life, yet I play and they ask me to do these kinds of guys.



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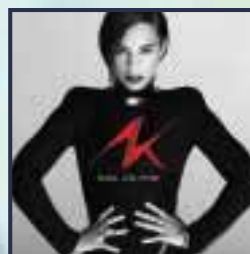
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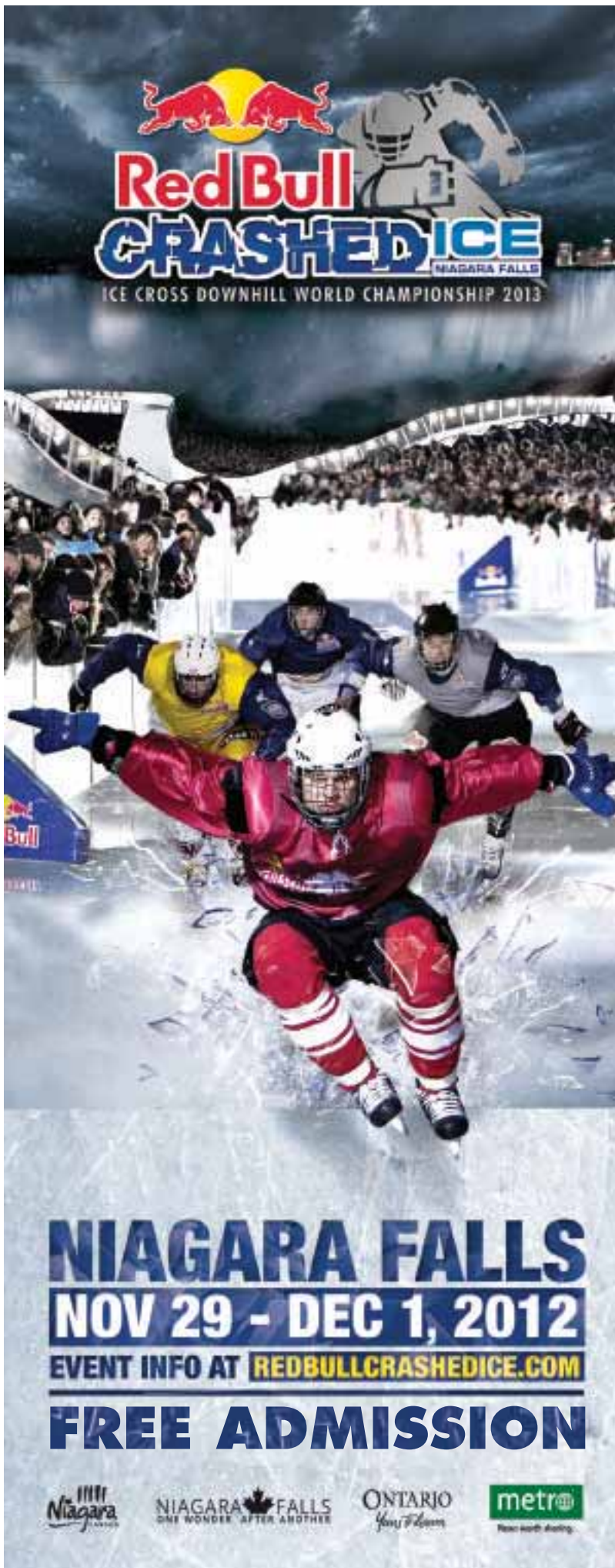
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News worth sharing.



Director Peter Jackson poses with his daughter Katie on the red carpet at the premiere of his new film *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, in New Zealand. ROSS SETFORD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hobbit fans revel in the New Zealand premiere of Jackson's latest production

Coming to theatres.

Fans and actors laud most recent effort from Jackson, who credits unusual shooting style for success

Wearing elf ears and wizard hats, sitting atop their dad's shoulders or peering from balconies, tens of thousands of New Zealanders watched their favourite Hobbit actors walk the red carpet Wednesday at the film trilogy's hometown premiere.

An Air New Zealand plane freshly painted with Hobbit characters flew low over Wellington's Embassy Theatre, eliciting roars of approval from the crowd.

Sam Rashidmardani, 12, said he came to see Gollum actor Andy Serkis walk the red carpet — and he wasn't disappointed.

"It was amazing," Rashidmardani said of the evening, adding his Gollum impression: "My precious."

British actor Martin Freeman, who brings comedic

Quoted

"I really think 48 frames is pretty terrific and I'm looking forward to seeing the reaction. It's been talked about for so long, but finally the film is being released and people can decide for themselves."

Peter Jackson
Director of *The Hobbit*.

timing to the lead role of Bilbo Baggins, said he thought director Peter Jackson had done a fantastic job on *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*.

"He's done it again," Freeman said in an interview on the red carpet.

"If it's possible, it's probably even better than *The Lord of the Rings*. I think he's surpassed it."

While it is unusual for a city so far from Hollywood to host the premiere of a hoped-for blockbuster, Jackson's filming of his lauded LOTR trilogy and now *The Hobbit*

in New Zealand has helped create a film industry here. The film will open in theatres around the world next month.

One of the talking points of the film is the choice by Jackson to shoot it using 48 frames per second instead of the traditional 24 in hopes of improving the picture quality.

Some say the images come out too clear and look so realistic that they take away from the magic of the film medium. Jackson likens it to advancing from vinyl records to CDs.

"I really think 48 frames is pretty terrific and I'm looking forward to seeing the reaction," Jackson said on the red carpet. "It's been talked about for so long, but finally the film is being released and people can decide for themselves."

Jackson said it was strange working on the project so intimately for two years and then having it suddenly taken away as the world got to see the movie.

"It spins your head a little bit," he said.

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Cruise is PSY's celeb choice to go Gangnam

Mission Impossible?
YouTube record-setting sensation says he'd love to see famous actor do his dance

The South Korean rapper behind YouTube's most-viewed video ever has set what might be a Mission: Impossible for himself. Asked which celebrity he would like to see go Gangnam Style, the singer PSY said, "Tom Cruise!"

Surrounded by screaming fans, he then chuckled at the idea of the American movie star doing his now famous horse-riding dance. PSY's comments Wednesday in Bangkok were his first public remarks since his viral smash video — with 838 million views — surpassed Justin Bieber's Baby, which until Saturday held the record with 803 million views.

"It's amazing," PSY told a

news conference, saying he never set out to become an international star. "I made this video just for Korea. And when I released this song — wow."

The video has spawned hundreds of parodies and tribute videos and earned him a spotlight alongside a variety of superstars. Earlier this month, Madonna invited PSY onstage and they danced to his song at one of her New York City concerts. MC Hammer introduced the Korean star at the American Music Awards as, "My Homeboy PSY!"

Even U.S. President Barack Obama is talking about him. Asked on Election Day if he could do the dance, Obama replied: "I think I can do that move," but then concluded he might "do it privately for Michelle," the first lady.

PSY was in Thailand to give a free concert Wednesday night organized as a tribute to the country's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej,



PSY giving a traditional welcome to Thai fans in Bangkok. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

who turns 85 next month. He paid respects to the king at a Bangkok shopping mall, signing his name in an autograph book placed beside a giant poster of the king.

Determined not to be a one-hit wonder, PSY said he plans to release a worldwide album in March. "I have plenty of dance moves left," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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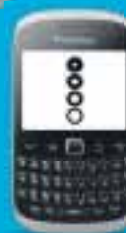
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Alicia Keys presents new side of herself as part of *Girl on Fire*

New album. Singer talks about the making of her fifth album, her son jumping on a track with her and re-designing who she is

Alicia Keys will make you cry. Cry hard.

That's what happened when a close friend listened to the song *Brand New Me*, a personal piano-tune from Keys' new album that she calls her autobiography. On it, she sings about being herself, even if others don't approve.

"When I looked up from playing it, she was crying and she was like, 'Why didn't you warn me?' It caught her off-guard," Keys recalled in an interview.

"There's something about a time in your life that we all go through — if you haven't gone through it you will — that you find you're going to rise above something that's kind of held you back and you find this thing inside of you that really says, 'I'm new now.'"

Keys' life has changed tremendously since she recorded *The Element of Freedom* three years ago.

She's now a mother and Broadway producer, and has dealt with her first major tabloid drama, involving

her relationship with her husband, producer-rapper Swizz Beatz, and his ex-wife.

And the 31-year-old Keys, who rarely collaborates with other singers, is working with new players: *Girl on Fire*, out this week, features Bruno Mars, Frank Ocean, Jamie xx, Nicki Minaj, Emeli Sande, Babyface, Dr. Dre, John Legend and Maxwell.

"I'm just way more open all around, and I really wanted to work with some different people this time that could really accentuate what I do," she said.

Keys talked about her fifth album, new haircut and two-year-old son.

What was it like writing *Brand New Me*, since the lyrics are so direct?

I think the whole album is more lyrical than ever before and I definitely think it is on a deeper level. ... Maybe it's more accessible, or maybe I've given more access to myself.

I think the real thing is I'm clearer about who I am, myself and what I feel. And I think probably when I was younger, maybe you have more of a sense of wanting to save a part of yourself or hide a part of yourself, or protect a part of yourself or something like that, and that's just natural.

One more question

Has the songwriting process changed for you over the years?

- **Answer.** It does change. The approach changes depending on different times. My last record, *Element*, it was more like, I was so into sounds and sonics, I was so into how to create more sonic places to go to and experiment. I think the songwriting process came almost second to the sonics of it.

Your son is featured on *When It's All Over*. How did that happen?

We were in the studio working on it, and he came in and he was kind of seeing us sing and writing it, and so he wanted to see the mic, so I passed it to him and he started talking on it. But this is when he was like a year and three months, so what first was on there was kind of just the first words he was saying, but as time progressed and we were about to wrap the album, I was like, 'I really gotta get Egypt on ... because he's two now, he has a lot to say, he has a personality.' And so I brought him back into the studio ... and you'll notice, I'll ask him what's his name and he says, 'Showtime' (laughs).



Alicia Keys showcases a new side of herself on her latest album.

GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"We were in the studio working on it, and he came in and he was kind of seeing us sing and writing it, and so he wanted to see the mic, so I passed it to him and he started talking on it."

Alicia Keys
Talking about her son joining her on a track.

So for those that know my husband, you'll understand what that means.

Has being a mother changed the way you create music?

It was definitely strange. What really happened is I was a lot more precise about what I wanted to accomplish. ... Whereas before, it was kind of like endless hours in the studio, just doing everything. I'd be eating there. I'd be talking on the phone. I'd be doing music there. I'd be like hanging out, chillin', watch a movie there, like doing everything. It was less about that and more about, "Here's what I'm coming to do, the vision I had for today and then I'm going home." So it was a lot more specific and actually that focus was really good for me.

You cut your hair. How does it feel?

I love this hair. I love it chopped off. I love all the things I can do with it. In fact, I can do more things with my short hair than I could do with my long hair to be honest. It's just such a freeing, powerful feeling to have short hair and to let go of all the things in my past, you know, 'cause I feel like you start fresh. You start fresh and fly, and that's how I feel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Black Keys settle lawsuits



The Black Keys have settled a lawsuit with Home Depot and Pizza Hut over misuse of their music. EVAN AGOSTINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Music. Band's songs were allegedly misused to sell power tools and pizza

The Black Keys told a federal judge the band has settled copyright infringement lawsuits against Pizza Hut and The Home Depot claiming misuse of their music in commercials.

The band alleged the song *Lonely Boy* was improperly used to sell power tools, and *Gold on the Ceiling* to sell pizza. The Grammy-winning band sued in June. Both companies denied copying the songs.

Attorneys for the band informed a federal judge in Los Angeles of the Pizza Hut settlement on Monday. The settlement agreement with

The Home Depot was reached earlier this month.

No details of the settlements were included in court filings. Stephen Holmes, a spokesman for The Home Depot, and a publicist for the band didn't have an immediate comment. A representative for Pizza Hut did not return a message seeking comment.

Attorneys expect to file formal dismissals by early January, according to court filings.

Both songs appeared on the rock group's seventh album, *El Camino*, which was released last year and has sold more than a million copies.

The Black Keys are comprised of Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney. Musician-producer Brian Burton, who is known as Danger Mouse, also sued the companies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adele. Sophomore studio album sells more than 10 million copies

Adele is rolling in the records.

The 24-year-old British songstress's album *21* has sold more than 10 million copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan. The album reached the milestone last week, less than two years after its release.

21 is the 21st album to sell 10 million copies since Nielsen SoundScan began tracking sales in 1991.

Adele's sophomore studio album debuted in 2011 and featured such hits as *Rolling in the Deep*, *Someone Like You* and *Set Fire to the Rain*.

It's the third album to reach the 10 million mark in 2012. Linkin Park's *Hybrid Theory* and Usher's *Confessions* both crossed the 10 million mark earlier this year. Adele won in all six categor-



Adele continues to surprise with her successes as her album hit a new plateau. GETTY IMAGES

ies she was nominated in at the Grammys earlier this year, including album of the year.

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Angus T. Jones ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Two and a Half Men actor Angus T. Jones apologizes over 'filth' remark

Two and a Half Men star Angus T. Jones is doing damage control following his remarks during an interview with a Christian website in which he called the hit show "filth" and urged fans not to watch it. Jones released a statement this week aiming to smooth things over with his bosses and

co-workers — though he pointedly didn't take back what he said. "I apologize if my remarks reflect me showing indifference to and disrespect of my colleagues and a lack of appreciation of the extraordinary opportunity of which I have been blessed," Jones' statement reads. "I never intended that."

Twitter



@jtimberlake

Memphis ... I love you. Always good to come home. Thanksgiving has got to be the best holiday. Also, I'm a pig.



@pattyduke_id

Have any of you heard or seen an article on twitter going to start charging a fee. Let me know, got a tweet saying it, but might be hacker



@JonahHill

Now I'm watching Black Swan and this movie is crazy and amazing



@JimCarrey

Archeologists are now saying that the visit of the 3 Magi to baby Jesus did happen but that the myrrh may have been a regift!

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



That was quick! Jessica Simpson is pregnant again



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Whoa. Here's some news I didn't see coming: Jessica Simpson is pregnant, again.

Seven months after giving birth to daughter Maxwell, Jessica Simpson is reportedly already expecting another child, according to Us Weekly. "It definitely wasn't planned," a source says. "But yes, Jessica is pregnant again." This would be the second baby for Simpson and fiancé Eric Johnson. A rep for Simpson has yet to comment.

Oh man, you guys. This brings up so many questions, mainly: What was she thinking? But also: Is she taking cues from notorious quick-turnaround-breeder Tori Spelling? (Ed note: Never, ever take life tips from Tori Spelling.) What will happen to her multimillion dollar campaign with Weight Watchers? Because you know girlfriend isn't going to slim down anytime soon. And does this mean we're all going to be subjected to photos of her being gigantic yet again? As someone who has a seven-month-old at home, I'm down with pregnant ladies and have nothing but respect for them, but my Us Weekly just finally stopped running photos of her waddling around L.A. Hey, paparazzi — I think we (and probably Jessica Simpson) could use a little break. Let's let her gestate in peace this go round, OK?



Gabriel Aubry

Gabriel Aubry fails to have restraining order from Halle Berry lifted

Gabriel Aubry's efforts to have the restraining order against him lifted following a Thanksgiving brawl with ex-girlfriend Halle Berry's fiancé, Olivier Martinez, have failed, with a judge denying his request to dismiss the ban, according to TMZ. The order, which

requires Aubry to stay at least 100 yards away from Martinez, Berry and the four-year-old daughter Aubry shares with Berry, Nahla, is set to expire today due to a clerical error, though Berry is expected to file a request to extend the ban.



Dolly Parton

Parton rubbishes gay best friend rumours

Despite being married to Carl Dean for 46 years, Dolly Parton has been dogged by rumours romantically linking her to best friend Judy Ogilvy for years. "Judy and I have been best friends since we were like in the third and fourth grade," Parton says in an interview with ABC's Nightline. "We still just have a great friendship and

relationship and I love her as much as I love anybody in the whole world, but we're not romantically involved." On the plus side, the persistent rumours did give Parton something she could bond over with Oprah Winfrey: "Like Gayle (King), her friend, Judy, my friend, they just think that you just can't be that close to somebody," Parton says.

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3 LIFE

An unlikely trio of cherries, almonds and wild rice wows

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This impressive dish features juicy pork tenderloin filled with dried cherries, hearty wild rice, herbs and roasted almonds. It's

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- 1 small yellow onion, diced
- 6 oz (170 g) Italian sausage, removed from casing
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped parsley
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh thyme
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh rosemary
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) coarsely chopped dried cherries
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) coarsely chopped roasted almonds
- 1 cup (250 ml) cooked wild rice
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 1/2 lb (1.1 kgs) boneless pork loin, filleted
- Kitchen twine for wrapping
- Salt and pepper for topping

Cherry, Almond and Wild-Rice-Stuffed Pork Loin



This recipe serves six to eight. NEWS CANADA

sure to be the star of your gathering and will have your guests coming back for more!

1. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, warm olive oil. Add onions and sauté until translucent, about 3 to 5 minutes. Add sausage and garlic and cook until browned and cooked through. Remove from heat and add parsley, thyme, rosemary, dried cherries and almonds. Stir in wild rice; add salt and pepper to taste.

2. Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Spread filleted pork loin out on a clean work surface. Top pork loin with prepared stuffing from edge to edge. Starting from the short side, roll pork loin and stuffing into a spiral.

3. Tie roll together with heavy-duty kitchen string in the centre and at the two ends of roast to prevent it from unrolling in the oven. Place roast on a rack in a shallow roasting pan and sprinkle generously with salt and pepper. Insert an oven-safe

meat thermometer into the centre of the roast and cook for 1 hour. Reduce heat to 325 F (160 C) and continue to cook for another 45 to 60 minutes.

4. Remove roast from oven once meat thermometer reaches 160 F (71 C). Allow meat to rest in the pan, loosely covered with foil for 20 to 30 minutes.

5. Remove from pan and cut twine away from the roast. Slice and serve.

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Buying your first home: A major life milestone

Are you a property virgin? Your real estate goals could be closer than you think

EMMA
GODMERE

life@metronews.ca

Owning your first home is a major milestone. Buying property is likely one of the first significant investments you'll ever make — and it's an investment that you get to enjoy while it appreciates.

For young people in particular, the idea of getting a mortgage can feel like an insurmountable obstacle amid the reality of student and consumer debt, but your real estate goals don't have to be as far away as you think.

"You can never start too early," says Mark Salerno, corporate representative with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. "If you start early enough, you're going to know the degree of challenge that you're going



Buying your first home doesn't have to be scary. ISTOCK IMAGES

to have."

Salerno suggests first meeting with your bank to assess what kind of mortgage you might qualify for. Some hopeful homeowners may need to address debt and income concerns before taking the plunge, but banks and credit counselling agencies

can help you become a better mortgage candidate.

If you're given the green light, the next task is finding a realtor.

Realtors will be able to shed light on market conditions, trends and prices, and help you comb through real estate listings.

A good place to start is with the Canadian Real Estate Association, which can link you to a realtor in your area. Realtors can also connect you to other important individuals like home inspectors and help negotiate a deal when you're ready to buy.

Some financial analysts

Start sharing

This is the fourth in a week-long series of articles chronicling some of the rites of passage many of Metro's readers will experience as they leave the nest or school and head out on their own.

How did you find your first apartment? Any tips

you'd like to share? Visit metronews.ca/features/firsts, tweet us or even turn to the person next to you and share your stories.



Three things to consider when looking for a new home

- Do you want a new home or a resale home? New homes will offer more up-to-date features, but can incur extra costs like GST or HST, for which there's no rebate if the house is more than \$450,000. Resale homes may need renovations, but are most likely surrounded by established neighbourhoods.
- Is the neighbourhood sustainable? A sustainable neighbourhood ideally offers affordable homes, access to public transit,

and proximity to schools, shops and work. Residents in sustainable neighbourhoods should also be able to choose healthier transportation options, like walking and cycling.

- How much space do you need when it comes to bedrooms, bathrooms, storage, and outdoor areas? The CMHC recommends buying a home that meets most of your projected needs for the next five to 10 years.

may suggest renting a home is a better long-term approach, but while Salerno agrees it can be the more affordable option, he emphasizes the benefits of investing in your own piece of real estate are worth the purchase.

"The market, on average, over time appreciates and you then have a means to build equity in your home," he says. "If you're in a renting situation, you're paying a mortgage — but it's your landlord's mortgage."

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Both sides have valid claims in NHL negotiations: Expert

Lockout. League and players will meet separately with mediators again on Thursday

It's a good thing U.S. federal mediators aren't seeking to determine right and wrong while meeting with the NHL and NHL Players' Association this week.

According to sports management professor Aubrey Kent of

Temple University in Philadelphia, both sides have a valid reason to claim that they are in the right when it comes to their ongoing labour dispute.

"For me, the whole issue comes down to perspective," Kent said Wednesday in an interview. "Players feel as though they're being bullied and strong-armed and having things taken away — I can see that that's a legitimate perspective. Owners feel from a dollar-value perspective that the next seven years they've offered would be far more lucrative

than the previous seven years were, even as good as that was.

"And if you crunch the numbers, that's actually true as well."

No wonder the sides remain so entrenched in their positions.

They met separately with mediators Scot L. Beckenbaugh and John Sweeney on Wednesday afternoon at an undisclosed location — something Kent didn't anticipate would result in a "seismic" shift in perspective from either side. The non-binding sessions are intended

to try and help the sides find some common ground, and will continue Thursday.

The last move at the bargaining table came from the NHLPA, which presented a new offer last week that moved within \$182 million of the league over a five-year deal. Commissioner Gary Bettman said they remained "far apart."

The work stoppage comes at a time when NHL franchise values have never been higher, with the annual Forbes rankings released Wednesday valuing 20 of the league's 30 teams

at \$200 million or higher.

"Both sides feel they can get a better deal by waiting it out, but my view is that time only helps owners in these negotiations," said Kent. "And it's not just in this particular negotiation, but in any labour dispute. Employees are always at a disadvantage because salary lost is never regained."

"Whereas owners were there before the players and they'll be there after the players and they have plenty of time to make up anything that is lost."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Canadian skier ready to launch assault on slopes

Larisa Yurkiw, from Owen Sound, prepares to blast out of the starting gate during a women's downhill training run at the Lake Louise Winterstart World Cup on Wednesday in Lake Louise, Alta. Yurkiw, competing at the Lake Louise World Cup for the first time since 2009, travelled a long road back from a catastrophic knee injury to be Canada's lone woman racing World Cup downhill this week. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLSE. Leafs first NHL team valued at \$1B: Forbes

While the Toronto Maple Leafs became the first hockey team to be valued at \$1 billion US by Forbes.com, the influential magazine concluded the fabled franchise got the "worst" value for the buck and said the NHL would be better off with increased revenue sharing.

The jump in value of the Maple Leafs — to \$1 billion from the magazine's estimate of \$521 million last year — is based in large part on the sale of 75 per cent of the team to telecom giants Rogers Communications and BCE Inc. and estimated revenues of \$200 million. The telecoms paid \$1.32 billion Cdn. for the On-

tario Teachers Pension Plan's share of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, which also includes the Raptors, the Marlies, Toronto FC and the Air Canada Centre among other holdings.

"I suppose we should be flattered that we're on the top of the list, but we've no idea where they get their numbers," said MLSE president Tom Anselmi.

"The other statistic (worst value) is probably a reflection of the fact we haven't been in the playoffs in too many years," Anselmi added. "If we get back in the playoffs, we'll start climbing that list."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHL

Winterhawks coach banned for rest of season

The Western Hockey League suspended Portland Winterhawks head coach and general manager Mike Johnston for the rest of the season Thursday and announced the forfeiture of several draft picks after a series of league violations.

The Winterhawks were also fined \$200,000. The disciplinary action was a result of player benefit violations over the past four seasons, the WHL said in a release.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Curling. Saskatoon's Lawton off to a hot start

Stefanie Lawton is off to an impressive start at the Capital One Canada Cup curling competition.

The Saskatoon skip won her second game of the day in Moose Jaw, Sask., defeating Heather Nedohin of Sherwood Park, Alta., 8-5 in Draw 2 action Wednesday.

Earlier, Lawton downed Sherry Middaugh of Coldwater 10-4.

The two wins give Lawton a good start on her quest for an Olympic berth in Sochi in 2014. The winner of both the men's and women's tournaments in Moose Jaw will receive one of the six automatic qualification

Hockey

Wings prospect faces 'super drunk' driving charges

Detroit Red Wings prospect Riley Sheahan faces charges under Michigan's tougher "super drunk" designation following a traffic stop during which police discovered him clad in a Teletubby costume.

According to a Grand Rapids police report obtained by MLive.com, Sheahan twice registered a blood alcohol level of 0.30 per cent following his arrest on Oct. 29. The driving limit is 0.08 per cent and the benchmark for the "super drunk" designation is 0.17 per cent.

Police say he was wearing the costume of a purple Teletubby, also known as Tinky Winky, during the stop. The 20-year-old Grand Rapids Griffins centre from St. Catharines played in college at Notre Dame.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Men's action

- Edmonton's Kevin Koe (1-0) beat John Epping of Peterborough, 5-3.
- That brought Epping's young rink back down to earth after they scored a 7-6 win over Olympic champion Kevin Martin in the first draw.

spots for the 2013 Roar of the Rings — the tournament that will determine who advances to the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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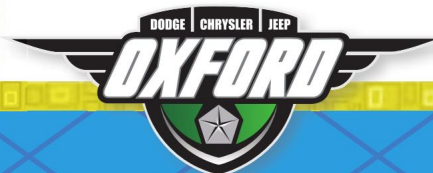
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Ex-players face rough path into Hall of Fame

Cooperstown. Bonds, Clemens and Sosa on Hall of Fame ballot for first time, but steroid use looms over their nominations

The most polarizing Hall of Fame debate since Pete Rose will now be decided by the baseball shrine's voters: Do Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa belong in Cooperstown despite drug allegations that tainted their huge numbers?

In a month-long election sure to become a referendum on the Steroids Era, the Hall ballot was released Wednesday, and Bonds, Clemens and Sosa are on it for the first time.

Bonds is the all-time home run champion with 762 and



Roger Clemens
GETTY IMAGES FILE

won a record seven MVP awards. Clemens took home a record seven Cy Young trophies and is ninth with 354 victories. Sosa ranks eighth on the homer chart with 609.

Yet for all their HRs, RBIs

and Ws, the shadow of PEDs looms large.

More than 600 longtime members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America will vote on the 37-player ballot. Candidates require 75 per cent for induction, and the results will be announced Jan. 9.

If recent history is any indication, the odds are solidly stacked against Bonds, Clemens and Sosa. Mark McGwire and Rafael Palmeiro both posted Cooperstown-calibre stats, too, but drug clouds doomed them in Hall voting.

Some who favour Bonds and Clemens claim the bulk of their accomplishments came before baseball got wrapped up in drug scandals. Many fans on the other side say drug cheats — suspected or otherwise — should never be afforded the game's highest individual honour.

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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

If you know a secret about a friend, you are strongly advised to keep it to yourself. Don't embarrass them by letting other people in on information they don't need to be aware of. You have secrets too!

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You won't find it hard to win people round to your way of thinking. With your ruler, Venus, linked nicely to energy planet Mars others want to believe every word you say. Whether or not it's true is another matter.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Forget about your chores and responsibilities and do something strictly for fun. This is not a day to push yourself hard. This is a day to take things easy. Time spent in the company of friends will not be time wasted.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Today should be a fun day for you, followed by a fabulous Friday and a stunning Saturday. Romance is under good stars right now, so let a special person know just how much you think of them.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You will find it easier than usual to deal with family issues today, so make a point of trying to resolve disagreements with loved ones. It must not be all one-way traffic. It's not about blame, it's about helping each other.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Relaxation and affection are the keywords today. That applies not only to your dealings with loved ones but also to those you work with. Your laid back attitude will draw people to you.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Listen to what others tell you and act on their advice. You may wonder why they are so eager to help you but the planets indicate there is no need to be suspicious. They just want to see you do well.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Cosmic changes over the next few days will bring challenges of a serious nature, but that does not mean you can't have fun as well. Today's Venus-Mars link will bring out your playful side — and maybe your romantic side too.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Don't let money worries get in the way of taking a personal relationship to a new level. You don't have to spend a fortune to have fun with the object of your affection, just do things together that you both enjoy.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Make sure you get out and about, and interact with wide a range of people today. The more you are on the move, the more likely it is you will meet someone with whom you can make beautiful music.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Watch out for opportunities to boost your reputation today. Venus in the career area of your chart, linked to go-getting Mars, will open doors to you that may have been closed before. Or maybe you never knew they existed!

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Your sparkling personality will draw people to you like moths to a flame today. Wherever you go, others will want to be your friend, and you'll have more than enough warmth to go around. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

Across

- Pot cover
- Heard on Perry Mason
- Wing reach
- Electrified particle
- Inspired
- Tedious office job
- Movie alien
- Cheers was one
- Orange Pekoe or Earl Grey
- Buffy the — (2 words)
- First class (2 words)
- Carol Burnett tugged this
- Bundle
- Bar layer
- Precious jewel
- Food scrap
- Easel board
- Speedwagon
- Mornings (abbr.)
- Exclamations of contentment
- He played the Skipper on Gilligan's Island
- Scrape out a living
- Slime
- Set a programme to music
- Sales agent (abbr.)
- Hard knock
- Egyptian Sun God
- Extremely dry
- Found in an atlas
- "Cup"
- Greet
- Pochard
- Wheel of Fortune purchase

Down

- Actor Schreiber
- Small amount
- He starred in "The Pink Panther" movies (init.)
- Log home
- Alert
- Withered
- Asner or Norton



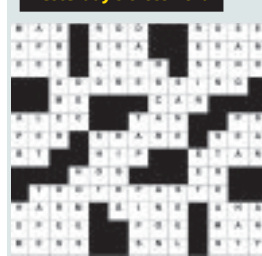
BY BETTY MARTIN

- Nora on Brothers & Sisters (init.)
- Feel sorry for
- Aweather
- Close by
- Soda fountain treats
- "The Raven" poet
- As — on TV
- Acreeage
- State where Evening Shade was set (abbr.)
- Fancy scarf

- Upper limb
- This Hour — 22 Minutes
- Diagram
- Slippery fish
- One of The Three Stooges
- Japanese wine
- Only Cosby son the The Cosby Show
- Jump
- Hospital waiting room (abbr.)
- Green or purple fruit

- Slip up
- Study hard for a test
- Come the Brides
- Early Ron Howard role
- Metric weight
- Moran of Happy Days
- Giant powerful dog: Great —
- The star of The Apprentice (init.)
- Form of address
- British thanks

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

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4	6	9	1	8	5	2	7	3
2	8	3	9	7	4	1	6	5
8	4	2	3	1	6	9	5	7
1	7	5	2	9	8	6	3	4
3	2	6	5	4	7	8	1	2
7	2	1	8	5	9	3	4	6
6	3	4	7	2	1	5	6	9
2	5	8	4	6	3	7	2	1

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for your current



or future home.



Add some spice



and punch to your



colour palette



at this



design



workshop



hosted in



one of our



rosy new homes



with devilishly



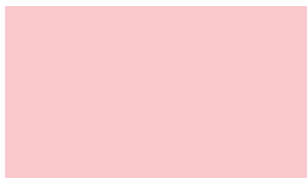
decadent upgrades.



Meet Glenn Dixon,



from



"Take this house



& sell it."



And try not to blush.



FREE DESIGN WORKSHOP



Dec. 1st & 2nd 12pm - 1:30pm & 2pm - 3:30pm
Hosted at The Ellington Model, 77 Tralee Place in London
Space is limited **Register at** fusiondesignsevents.com

